

REMARKS

The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed in the above-referenced case on December 29, 2003. Claims 1-12 are presented for examination. In the Office Action the Examiner has rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Smith Jr. hereinafter Smith. Claims 1-12 are also rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of Double-patenting, as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-12 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,005,931.

The Applicant has carefully noted and reviewed the rejections, reference of Smith, and the Examiner's comments. Applicant herein amends the claims to overcome the 101 rejection and to more particularly point out the patentable subject matter of applicant's invention, therefore, distinguishing unarguably over the art of Smith. Further applicant herein provides a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome the rejection under the judicially-created doctrine of double-patenting.

Applicant herein amends claim 1 to limit the claim to include personal PC routers at potential destinations, the personal PC routers receive information regarding an incoming call, and negotiate between themselves, wherein as a result of the negotiation one of the personal PC routers at a destination sends destination information regarding the call to the SCP. Applicant believes claim 1 as amended easily overcomes the Examiner's 101 rejection.

Applicant has studied the reference of Smith and disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of Smith. Smith does not teach or suggest that program controls 18a and 18b store individual routing rules associated with individual workstation (or destinations). The destinations

of Smith (workstations 24a-c) do not have individual PC routers as claimed in applicant's invention.

Smith specifically teaches that the local stored program control modules 18a, 18b communicate with a common stored program control module 20. In particular, the local stored program control modules 18a, 18b provide process control data to the common stored program control module 20 which may reside in server 26. The common stored program control module 20 may provide instructions to the network/service control point 10 for selectively connecting the message source 16 to at least one of the communication stations via a PBX/ACD 14.

Smith makes absolutely no mention of providing individual routers at destinations having computer stations with telephones and PC/VDU's as claimed. Smith does not disclose or suggest that the local stored program controls 18a and 18b route calls to workstations based on individual routing rules stored for each connected workstation.

In applicant's invention routing intelligence is no longer confined to a central location such as telephony switch 121 or T-Server 207 running on a connected processor, but distributed in a manner that individual users of the system may customize routing at their own workstations, using individual PCs. This is accomplished in large part by control code executable at a user's computer workstation. It is not required that the actual code be always at the user's workstation, as it may be shared code resident at, for example a file server on LAN 301, such as file server 303. The unique code may be accessed from such a server and executed at any one of several workstations such as workstations 361 and 362 by PC/VDU 331 and PC/VDU 332 respectively. The location of stored code, and access to such code is not, however germane to the invention. In embodiments of the invention, an individual PC executes unique code to provide call-routing control for an individual.

In embodiments of the present invention, T-Server 207 is adapted to cooperate with code executed at individual PCs to route incoming calls. In applicant's invention all calls are routed to a single routing point, and each individual routing application registers with that routing point. In this case a record of each call is broadcast on LAN 301, and filtering occurs at each PC router. The PC routers will then determine the destination of the call based on received data on the LAN related to the call, for example caller ID, or additional information received from an intelligent peripheral. As argued above Smith fails to teach this level of network routing.

Applicant believes claim 1, as amended, is clearly patentable over Smith and the 101 double patenting rejection. Claims 2-6 are patentable on their own merits, or at least as depended from a patentable rejection.

Claim 7 is herein amended to include similar limitations added to claim 1 above. As argued above, Smith does not teach or suggest broadcasting information regarding an incoming call, wherein the broadcast information is received at individual PC routers at potential destination, and the PC routers at the destinations negotiate amongst themselves a destination based on destination routing rules and the data pertaining to the call, and at least one of the destinations respond to the SCP with a destination for the call.

Applicant believes claim 7, as amended, is patentable over the art of Smith. Claims 8-12 are patentable on their own merits or at least as depended from a patentable claim.

As all of the claims left standing and as amended are clearly shown to be patentable over the art of Smith, and clearly distinguish over the 101 rejection regarding Patent No. 6,005,931, applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn and that the case be passed quickly to issue.

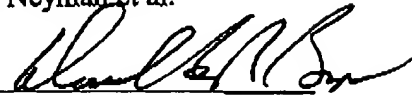
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If any fees are due beyond fees paid with this amendment,
authorization is made to deduct those fees from deposit account 50-0534.
If any time extension is needed beyond any extension requested with this
amendment, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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by



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